

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03863 110344Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
L-03 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /081 W
-----120049Z 000247 /73

R 102140Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4752
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAG: PFOR, SHUM, SREF, CVIS, FR, CI, US
SUBJECT: PLIGHT OF CARLOS LAZO FRIAS

REFS: (A) PARIS 13662 (B) SANTIAGO 1085 NOTAL (C) 76 SANTIAGO 10270
(NOTAL)

1. REFS B ANC C DESCRIBE THE MOST RECENT CHAPTERS IN THE CARLOS LAZO CASE. HE REMAINS IN THE PRIVILEGED QUARTERS (CAPUCHINO ANNEX) OF THE SANTIAGO JAIL. ACCORDING TO HIS MOTHER, WHO VISITS THE EMBASSY PERIODICALLY, HE IS IN ADEQUATE HEALTH BUT DEPRESSED.

2. LAZO IS ONE OF FOUR POLITICAL/SUBVERSIVE PRISONERS WHOM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) CARRIES IN THE SPECIAL CATEGORY "DIFERIDOS" (DEFERRED). THE CHILEAN BOARD CHARGED WITH CONSIDERING REQUESTS FOR COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES AS PROVIDED BY DECREE 504 HAS MADE NO DECISION ON THESE FOUR APPLICATIONS, KEEPING THEM IN LEGAL LIMBO AS REGARDS COMMUTATION. IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT THE BOARD IS FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS
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FROM TOP LEVELS OF THE GOC, PRESUMABLY -- AS PARIS REPORTS --
FROM JUNTA MEMBER AND AIR FORCE CINC GEN. LEIGH (76 SANTIAGO 10065).
LAZO SHARES THIS CATEGORY WITH SOCIALIST ERIC SCHNAKE AND TWO
COMMUNIST LEADERS.

3. COMMENT: LAZO AND SCHNAKE, BOTH CIVILIANS, ARE THE ONLY
PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE 1974 AIR FORCE MASS TRIAL WHO ARE STILL

INCARCERATED. IN AUGUST 1976 THE GOC EXILED CO-CONSPIRATOR CARLOS CARBACHO, AN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN, IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO PRESSURES FROM THE US CONGRESS AND USG GENERATED BY HIS WELL-PLACED US-CITIZEN BROTHER (76 SANTIAGO 8358). HAVING BEEN FORCED TO SWALLOW HARD ON CARBACHO, THE AIR FORCE DREW THE LINE AT SCHNAKE AND LAZO.

4. SHOULD MRS. LAZO DECIDE TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, WE BELIEVE THAT SHE SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT. SENATOR JACKSON HAS MAINTAINED A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THIS CASE AND THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO INFORM HIS OFFICE OF HER PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

5. AS THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED (76 SANTIAGO 10065), LAZO'S CLAIM IS AS GOOD OR AS BETTER THAN MANY OTHERS. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO BELIEVE THAT HE OR SCHNAKE COULD MATERIALLY WORSEN CHILE'S EXISTING INTERNATIONAL POSITION SHOULD THEY BE RELEASED.

6. THE LAST HIGH-LEVEL EXPRESSION OF USG INTEREST IN LAZO'S CASE OCCURRED IN OCTOBER 1976, WHEN THE DEPARTMENT CALLED IN AMBASSADOR TRUCCO AND THE EMBASSY FOLLOWED UP. WE DO NOT BELIEVE A FURTHER APPROACH BY THE USG WOULD BE EFFECTIVE. IF THE DEPARTMENT DECIDES ON ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIONS, HOWEVER, WE SUGGEST THAT THIS SPECIFIC CASE BE RAISED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR CAUAS, WHO HAS NOT YET BEEN ENGAGED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ON SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS CASES.
POPPER

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